



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 29, 2005

Contact: Maria Velasquez, Communications Director: (619) 235-5725 (pager & voicemail) mvelasquez@saniego.gov
Deputy District Attorney Tricia Pummill (619) 531-3514

SAN DIEGO'S CITY ATTORNEY AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARGE STEREO WAREHOUSE OWNERS WITH UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Representing the City Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office:
Deputy City Attorney Cindy Davis & Deputy DA Tricia Pummill
B-roll of undercover operation will be available in VHS format

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 29 at 10 a.m.

LOCATION: District Attorney's Office, Hall of Justice, 13th Floor, 330 W. Broadway

San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre and District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis announced today their offices have filed a consumer protection action against three owners of the Stereo Warehouse and Stereo 1 Warehouse for false advertising and unfair business practices.

Anas Mohammed Hassan Sweeleh, 22 from Bakersfield; Riad Mohammad Abdelfattah, 35 from Chino Hills; and Marwan Abdulrahim, 45, also from Chino Hills, have been accused of falsely advertising free installation of stereo systems, which were sold at their San Diego and Chula Vista stores. The three men were also charged with advertising prices that were not actually available to consumers.

City Attorney Aguirre stated, "Consumers expect to be able to purchase items for the advertised prices. In this case, all they got was a hard sell."

The year long, joint undercover investigation revealed that installation was not free because consumers were routinely charged for additional parts and the advertised prices were rarely, if ever given, to consumers.

District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis said, "When an advertiser says installation is 'free', it should be free. These practices violate the state's false advertising and unfair competition laws."

Anyone who purchased a stereo from Stereo Warehouse or Stereo 1 Warehouse and has a consumer complaint should call the City Attorney or DA's Consumer Hotlines. City Attorney Consumer Helpline 619 533-5600; District Attorney Consumer Hotline 619 531-4070.

##